

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 275399

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, MARR, JA, KS

SUBJECT: HABIB-YANO MEETING

1. UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS MET FOR FORTY MINUTES WITH CGP DIETMEMBER'S MISSION HEADED BY SECRETARY-GENERAL JUNYA YANO AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 15. FRANK AND COR-DIAL EXCHANGE COVERED WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS AS FOLLOWS.

2. US-JAPAN RELATIONS. YANO EXPRESSED CGP'S APPRECIATION FOR UNDER SECRETARY'S "SPECIAL EFFORTS" AS EA ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND U/S TO FURTHER US-JAPAN RELATIONS. UNDER SECRETARY NOTED THAT CLOSE US-JAPAN CONSULTATIONS PRECLUDED ANY "SHOCKS" FROM DEVELOPING AND THAT OVERALL RELATIONS
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WERE MUCH BETTER THAN FEW YEARS AGO.

3. JAPAN'S DEFENSE ROLE. AFTER DESCRIBING FIRM COMMITMENT OF JAPANESE PEOPLE TO "PEACE CONSTITUTION", YANO ASKED IF US HAD ANY EXPECTATIONS OF A JAPANESE MILITARY OR SECURITY ROLE. UNDER SECRETARY HABIB SAID THAT US HAD NO SUCH EXPECTATIONS OTHER THAN JAPAN'S DEFENSE OF ITS HOME ISLANDS

AND TERRITORY. HE NOTED THAT JAPAN'S SECURITY DERIVES FROM ITS RELATIONS WITH US AND THAT JAPAN'S ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND US SECURITY SHIELD WERE TWO SIDES OF SAME COIN. HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT JAPAN'S APPROPRIATE REGIONAL ROLE LAY IN ASSISTING STABLE, ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT OF LESS PROSPEROUS ASIAN COUNTRIES RATHER THAN ANY MILITARY ACTIVITY.

4. JAPAN-PRC RELATIONS. YANO DESCRIBED CGP AS "MOST ENTHUSIASTIC OF ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES" FOR CONCLUSION OF JAPAN-PRC PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY (PFT) AND ASKED UNDER SECRETARY'S VIEWS. HABIB RESPONDED THAT PFT WAS AN ISSUE BETWEEN TOKYO AND PEKING IN WHICH US NOT INVOLVED. HE SAID US POLICY WAS TO PURSUE FULL NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE AND ADDED THAT JAPAN'S OWN IMPROVING TIES TO PRC WERE BENEFICIAL TO ASIAN REGION AS WHOLE. YANO HASTENED TO ADD THAT JAPAN-PRC TIES MEANT NO DIMINUTION OF US-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP. HABIB RESPONDED THAT US REGARDED SINO-JAPANESE AMITY AS PLUS FOR AREA.

5. DISARMAMENT/SALT. YANO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR US EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE SALT II TREATY AND ASKED FOR OUTLOOK FOR BOTH SALT AND COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY (CTB). UNDER SECRETARY NOTED THAT SALT TALKS WERE NOW AT CRITICAL STAGE BUT THAT OUTLOOK FOR AGREEMENT OVER NEXT FEW MONTHS WAS GOOD. RE CTB, HE NOTED THAT US WELCOMED SECRETARY BREZHNEV'S PUBLIC SUPPORT OF INCLUSION OF PNES IN CTB AND CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS PROCEEDING TO NEGOTIATE TREATY ON THAT BASIS.

6. NON-PROLIFERATION. YANO RECALLED THAT CGP HAD BEEN FIRST PARTY TO SUPPORT NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT) BUT WAS DISTURBED OVER PROBLEMS SURROUNDING JAPAN'S PEACEFUL USE OF ATOMIC ENERGY. NOTING JAPAN'S ENERGY-POOR STATUS, HE ASKED US CONSIDERATION ON THIS POINT. UNDER SECRETARY EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT TOKAI MURA ISSUE WAS RESOLVED FOR TIME BEING AND EMPHASIZED THAT NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION WERE DESIGNED TO REDUCE ACCESS TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON A GLOBAL BASIS, A GOAL CGP HAD HISTORICALLY SUPPORTED. YANO EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH THIS GOAL.

7. KOREAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL. NOTING CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEMS WITH TROOP WITHDRAWAL PLANS, YANO ASKED WHETHER CARTER ADMINISTRATION INTENDED TO GO AHEAD WITH FIRST TRANCHE OF WITHDRAWAL EVEN WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF EQUIPMENT TRANSFER AUTHORITY. UNDER SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT CONGRESS HAD ONLY DELAYED, NOT REJECTED, ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL AND CONSIDERATION EXPECTED EARLY NEXT YEAR. IN ANY CASE, SINCE WITHDRAWAL IS PLANNED OVER 4-5 YEAR PERIOD,

THERE IS CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY. HE CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING VIEW THAT CONGRESS DOES NOT WANT TO WEAKEN SECURITY SITUATION IN NORTHEAST ASIA.

8. US-JAPAN TRADE IMBALANCE. YANO EXPRESSED VIEW THAT JAPAN WAS BEING UNJUSTLY BLAMED FOR LARGE TRADE SURPLUS WITH US WHEN, IN FACT, A MAJOR CAUSE OF US DEFICIT WAS ITS PROFLIGATE USE OF PETROLEUM. HE NOTED ALSO THAT RISING YEN VALUE WAS PROBLEMATIC TO SMALLER JAPANESE EXPORTERS. HE ASKED WHY US DID NOT REDUCE ITS OIL IMPORTS. UNDER SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION WAS NOW TRYING TO DEVELOP RATIONAL ENERGY PLAN TO REDUCE OIL IMPORTS. HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT JAPAN'S LARGE SURPLUSES WOULD INEVITABLY PRODUCE PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENT AND THAT
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POLITICALLY JAPAN MUST NOT APPEAR UNCONCERNED OR SELFISH ABOUT DISRUPTING MARKETS OF OTHERS. HE SAID SOLUTION WAS TO LIBERALIZE IMPORTS. YANO RESPONDED THAT CGP SUPPORTED FREER TRADE AND LOWER JAPANESE TARIFF BARRIERS.

9. KIM TAE CHUNG KIDNAPPING. YANO, NOTING HABIB'S PRESENCE IN SEOUL IN 1973, ASKED UNDER SECRETARY'S VIEWS ON KIM TAE CHUNG KIDNAPPING. HABIB NOTED THAT MANY ALLEGATIONS HAD APPEARED IN THE PRESS BUT THAT USG HAD NOT MADE ANY CHARGES. HE DID NOTE THAT USG HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR KIM'S WELL-BEING, BUT SAID THAT HE SAW NO USEFUL PURPOSE IN COMMENTING ON ALLEGATIONS AND SPECULATIONS IN NEWSPAPERS CONCERNING A THIRD COUNTRY.

10. GOJ EFFORTS TO INTERVIEW KIM JAE KWON. KUROYANAGI ASKED WHETHER THERE HAD EVER BEEN ANY RESPONSE FROM KIM JAE KWON (FORMER ROK MINISTER IN TOKYO) TO TWO GOJ LETTERS REQUESTING AN INTERVIEW. HABIB AND EA/J OFFICER RESPONDED THAT KIM WAS NOW PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIEN IN US AND THAT GRANTING OF INTERVIEW WAS UP TO HIM. HE EMPHASIZED THAT USG HAD ACTED ONLY AS INTERMEDIARY IN DELIVERING GOJ LETTERS TO HIM.

11. PRESS TREATMENT. UNDER SECRETARY PROPOSED THAT ANY PRESS STATEMENT ON MEETING AVOID MENTIONING KOREA OR OTHER SPECIFIC SUBJECTS AND SIMPLY NOTE THAT WE DISCUSSED MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO US AND JAPAN IN FRANK AND CORDIAL MANNER. YANO AGREED, SAYING THAT CGP MISSION WAS HERE TO SERVE US-JAPANESE RELATIONS, NOT INTERESTS OF PRESS. VANCE

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